


# Isolation and Quarantine

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# Public Health in Emergencies: Isolation and Quarantine

- Prior statutes: address TB and HIV
  - Diseases not readily transmissible
  - Focused on individual
  - Extensive counseling required prior to consideration of quarantine
  - Due process prior to quarantine
- Not practical process for rapidly spreading disease that affects/potentially affects large numbers of people over a geographic area

# Isolation and Quarantine

- Felt to be necessary after worldwide experience with SARS
- New legislation: diseases of public health threat
  - Easily transmissible: SARS, influenza
  - Potentially involving large numbers of people within a geographic area
  - Define process from legal perspective

# Isolation and Quarantine

- Identifies procedure for quarantine and isolation, if voluntary methods not adequate
- Only State Health Commissioner can issue an order of quarantine
- Due process provisions, and appeal process

# Isolation and Quarantine

- Least restrictive manner possible
- Can be applied to populations or geographic areas
- Can apply to companion animals (virtually any that can be identified as a pet): no ability for State Health Commissioner to quarantine animals previously

# Isolation and Quarantine: Issues to be Addressed by Regulation

- Better define diseases of public health threat
- Impact of new legislation on isolation/quarantine of persons with TB or HIV
- Least restrictive environment
- Ensure that needs of persons subject to isolation/quarantine are met: food, water, medications, health care
  - Challenge for those remaining at home

# Isolation and Quarantine: Issues to be Addressed by Regulation

- Procedures for proper notice of orders of quarantine/isolation
- Procedures for State Health Commissioner to issue emergency detention order
- How to address isolation/quarantine of companion animals